

LONDONDERRY (JUDGE KEOGH'S CHARGE TO GRAND JURY).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 27 March 1878;—for,

COPIES " of the CHARGE addressed by Mr. Justice Keogh to the Grand Jury of Londonderry on the 18th of March 1878, as reported in the 'Derry Sentinel' of the following day :—

" And, of certain LETTERS from Mr. Justice Keogh to the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant and the Attorney General for Ireland relating thereto."

COPY of the CHARGE addressed by Mr. Justice Keogh to the Grand Jury of Londonderry, on the 18th of March 1878, as reported in the "Derry Sentinel," of the following day :—

SIR HERVEY BRUCE, and Gentlemen of the Grand Jury of the County and City of Londonderry,—In the absence of my learned brother, Judge Barry, who is unavoidably detained trying some cases in Lifford, it devolves on me to address to you a few observations. I am very happy again to have the opportunity and honour of addressing a grand jury of this county within your historic city. The number of cases to be sent before you, or, rather, the number of prisoners to be brought under your notice, is very large. There are on the calendar 125; and in addition to that, I am informed that within the last 24 hours a life has been taken in the neighbourhood of your city, under circumstances with which I am not acquainted. It is right to tell you that of this very large number of 125 there are at least 97 persons who are charged with holding an illegal meeting—illegal assemblages, which are better known as party processions, and the riots which they, I am afraid, naturally and necessarily lead to. The other cases to come before you will not exceed—the bills will not exceed—altogether 37, and they are of a trivial character, such as might be expected in any city in the empire. There are none of them of an aggravated nature, or calling for special observations or directions on my part. I have already indicated the character of the 97, or the larger number of the cases to come before you. I need not tell you that I entirely deprecate all these party demonstrations, no matter from what side of the compass they may come. They are all equally and alike, in my humble opinion, the ruin of the country; and they are the last obstacle to our taking our proper place as a component branch of the British Empire. I hope, gentlemen—although I saw some manifestations to the contrary as I entered your town—I hope this day may be allowed to pass without any serious disturbances. The day itself is taken advantage of to establish what I will call a sort of retaliatory commemoration—retaliatory commemoration in which, unfortunately for those who are engaged in it, there is nothing to commemorate—nothing to commemorate. But turning from those who are engaged in that which they choose to call a commemoration, if words of mine can carry any weight, I would address myself from this place to the opposite party, who are anxious, I make no doubt, to display their unquestioned loyalty to the Crown of England and to British institutions. And I would say, to lay the foundation for my appeal to them, that I thoroughly sympathise with their great historic aspirations, and I believe that I myself would not be at this moment able to think or to speak as I choose but

for the deliverance which was witnessed from your walls. With these words on my lips and in my heart, I would say to that party opposed to the demonstration of to-day, Would it not be wiser for the descendants of those men who were "tried and not found wanting"—for the men who are here now, and will be here, I have no doubt, if again required—to look upon such demonstrations as this prepared for to-day—in which I again repeat there is nothing but disgrace to commemorate—with the charity of silence and contemptuous derision? If they do that there is no danger of a violation of the peace. But fearing that my wishes, and, I have no doubt, yours, may not be realised, and that there may arise some necessity for your being kept together, or again called together, I shall not discharge you until this day is closed. You will now have the bills sent before you, and you will give them attention, that they may be ready for my colleague when he arrives.

COPY of LETTER of 23 March 1878, from Mr. Justice Keogh to the
Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant.

Sir,

Roeback Grove, Miltown, 23 March 1878.

HAVING seen a notice given by Mr. A. M. Sullivan, of an intended question in the House, I addressed a letter to my friend the Attorney General, of which I enclose a copy. I fear the Attorney General had left London before my letter reached him, and I am informed here to-day that he has gone to Galway on public business, and will not be in his place on Monday night. Under the circumstances, I hope you will pardon me for sending you the enclosed, to put you in possession of the facts, that you may either state them, or, if you think proper, read my letter. I am anxious that I should not be exposed to unmerited obloquy in the House, of which I was for many years a Member, and for whose good opinion I entertain the highest value.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. James Lowther, M.P.,
Chief Secretary.

(signed) William Keogh.

COPY of LETTER of 21st March 1878, from Mr. Justice Keogh to the
Attorney General for Ireland.

Judges' House, Londonderry,

21 March 1878.

My dear Attorney General,

I PERCEIVE by the papers that Mr. A. M. Sullivan has given notice of his intention to ask the Government if they can lay upon the table any authorised report of my observations to the Londonderry Grand Jury. I am not in the habit of preparing my addresses to juries, and cannot therefore furnish the Government with any such report, but I have no desire to question the substantial accuracy of that contained in the "Derry Sentinel" of Tuesday last.

I had to comment on the very large number of persons (97 in all) awaiting their trial for party riots of every description. I deprecated their continuance, and appealed to the citizens of Derry to allow the processions which were about marching on that day, to proceed without the violent interruption which had been threatened. In doing so, I had not for an instant in my mind any intention to speak disparagingly of what is called the "National Festival," and which was, in fact, passed and beyond my thoughts. I had, however, before me the arches hung across the streets, under some of which I walked, the inscriptions on them proclaiming the intention of the processionists to celebrate the memory of the so-called "Manchester Martyrs;" the portraits of Lord Edward Fitzgerald and Robert Emmett; the "I. R. B." being the initial letters of the late suppressed Fenian conspiracy; "Ireland for the Irish;" "The

"The

TO THE GRAND JURY OF LONDONDERRY.

"The Harp without the Crown;" the French flag fastened against a house wall, whilst the flag of England was not allowed to be seen. I spoke of those things as disgraceful, and I begged of the loyal inhabitants of Derry to treat their exhibition with silence and disdain. I have reason to believe that my advice was acted upon, and that in consequence no serious collision took place.

As I have already been misrepresented in some public journals on this subject, I trust I may rely upon you to have the matter set right should it come before the House of Commons, and in doing so you may make any use you think proper of this letter.

The Right Hon. the
Attorney General for Ireland.

Yours, &c.
(signed) *William Keogh.*

LONDONERARY (JAMES KROGER'S
CHANGE TO GRAND JURY).

COPIES of the Quorum addressed by Mr. James Kroger to the Grand Jury of London, Aug. 15, 1845, as reported in the "Daily Standard" of the following day, and of various Letters from Mr. James Kroger to the Chief Secretary to the Lord Chancellor and the Attorney General, for Advice relating thereto.

(Mr. James Kroger.)

Entered in The House of Commons, on 15th March 1846.
By March 1846.
